to the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). Under the scheme of NLCPR, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) is given a budgetary provision from "the pool" for infrastructure development in the North-Eastern States. Projects sanctioned include the Power sector (Generation, Transmission and Distribution), Roads and Bridges, Irrigation, Education, Health, Water Supply, Sports etc. In addition, the North-Eastern Council (NEC), which is a statutory body, also sanctions infrastructure development projects for the region. Infrastructure is also created through the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and the Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP). Besides, the North -Eastern States, including Sikkim are categorized as Special Category States by GoI. Their Annual Plans, which *inter alia* are used for infrastructure development, are funded on a 90:10 (grant: loan) basis as per the special policy dispensations

(b) The State-wise lists of projects sanctioned under NLCPR scheme are available on the Ministry's website under the head of 'NLCPR' and State-wise sub head "e. Sanctioned Projects". The lists of projects retained under the scheme for techno-economic examination are available under State-wise sub-head "d. Retained Projects".

The details of projects undertaken in the North-Eastern Region under NEC Plan during the last 3 years, project-wise and State-wise, are available on the website of NEC *viz. www.necouncil.gov.in.*

**Help to farmers by NEDFC**

1820. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) has prepared any scheme in order to help the farmers through micro credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented; and

(c) the amount of funds allocated to the farmers by NEDFI during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) While there are no schemes of the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) specifically designed to help farmers directly through micro credit, NEDFI are helping faremrs by accommodating their proposals under schemes like Micro Finance (MF), North East Entrepreneur Development Scheme (NEEDS) and Women Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (WEDS).

(c) NEDFI does not make sectoral fund allocations under any Scheme. However, disbursements made for agriculture and allied activities under all their schemes during the period 1.4.2007 to 30.11.2007 amounts to approximately Rs. 20.00 lakh.

**River conservation responsibility**

†1821. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to handover river conservation responsibility to the States;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government would carry this responsibility in a proper way;

(d) whether Government would consider to seek cooperation from private sector and local bodies in cleaning and conservation of rivers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a Centrally sponsored Scheme administered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests presently covers pollution abatement works in 35 rivers spread over 164 towns in 20 States of the country.

The State Government play a pivotal role in the pollution abatement/control measures. The pollution abatement works under NRCP are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments for the purpose. Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to create proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing one time grant for capital works for identified polluted stretches of rivers.

(d) and (e) River Conservation Programme is a mammoth task and needs cooperation of all stakeholders like State Governmetns, Local Bodies, public at large etc. The State Governments/Local Bodies are encouraged to fulfil their responsibilities towards Operation and Maintenance (O & M) of assets created by generating additional revenue through innovative measures like leavying of user charges, sale of sludge and through institutional mechanism under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to augment resources. Besides the above, cooperation of NGOs, schools, private sector and the general public are also tapped in the Public Participation and Awareness campaigns for conservation of rivers.

**Comprehensive Survey of Ganga**

1822. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive survey of the Ganga was done after John Andersons' Survey conducted in 1879;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the receding Gangotri glacier and sewage flowing in from cities will further worsen the already alarming position of Ganga and similarly-placed other rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Scientific surveys and independent studies are conducted on river Ganga from time to time by various agencies, independent institutions, researchers, environmentalists etc. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) conducted a comprehensive survey on pollution of Ganga basin in 1984 on the basis of which the Government launched the Ganga Action Plan in 1985.